

What is claimed is:

1. An electromagnetic switching device, comprising:
 - an electromagnetic drive apparatus;
 - a moving contact element, operatable by the drive apparatus and switchable between a bridging position, adapted to connect a pair of stationary contacts, and a disconnected position, adapted to disconnect the stationary contacts;
 - an actuating apparatus including an actuating element adapted to interact with the moving contact element and moveable between an operating position and a safe position, wherein, in the operating position, the moving contact element is switchable by the electromagnetic drive apparatus between the bridging position and the disconnected position, and wherein, by movement of the actuating element to the safe position, the moving contact element is adapted to be blocked from moving from the bridging position to the disconnected position, and is adapted to be blocked in the disconnected position.
2. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the moving contact element is adapted to be blocked in the bridging position by the actuating element when the actuating element is in an on position.
3. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuating apparatus is adapted to be manually operatable, and further comprising:
 - an auxiliary switch, coupled to the manually operatable actuating apparatus, adapted to disconnect the electromagnetic drive apparatus from its power supply when the actuating element is in the safe position.
4. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuating apparatus is adapted to be manually operatable and wherein the electromagnetic drive apparatus, the moving contact element and the actuating element are intersected by a common axis.
5. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuating element is movable linearly relative to the moving contact element.

6. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuating apparatus is manually operatable and is mechanically coupled to a basic appliance, the basic appliance including the electromagnetic drive apparatus, the moving contact element and the stationary contacts.
7. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the actuating apparatus is latched to the basic appliance, which acts as a contactor.
8. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuating apparatus is operable by way of a rotary switch.
9. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuating apparatus is adapted to be blocked in the safe position by way of a lock.
10. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuating apparatus is adapted to be manually operatable, and further comprising:
an auxiliary switch, coupled to the manually operatable actuating apparatus, adapted to disconnect the electromagnetic drive apparatus from its power supply when the actuating element is in the safe position.
11. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuating apparatus is adapted to be manually operable and wherein the electromagnetic drive apparatus, the moving contact element and the actuating element are intersected by a common axis.
12. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuating element is movable linearly relative to the moving contact element.
13. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuating apparatus is manually operatable and is mechanically coupled to a basic appliance, the basic appliance including the electromagnetic drive apparatus, the moving contact element and the stationary contacts.

14. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the actuating apparatus is latched to the basic appliance, which acts as a contactor.
15. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuating apparatus is operable by way of a rotary switch.
16. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuating apparatus is adapted to be blocked in the safe position by way of a lock.
17. An electromagnetic switching device, comprising:
 - a moving contact element, switchable between a bridging position, adapted to connect a pair of stationary contacts, and a disconnected position, adapted to disconnect the stationary contacts;
 - actuating means for interacting with the moving contact element, moveable between an operating position and a safe position; and
 - means for switching the moving contact element between the bridging position and the disconnected position, wherein, by movement of the actuating means to the safe position, the moving contact element is blocked from moving from the bridging position to the disconnected position, and is blocked in the disconnected position.
18. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the moving contact element is blocked in the bridging position by the actuating means when the actuating means is in an on position.
19. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the actuating means is manually operable, and further comprising:
 - switching means, coupled to the manually operable actuating means, for disconnecting the means for switching from its power supply when the actuating means is in the safe position.

20. The electromagnetic switching device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the actuating means is manually operatable and wherein the means for switching, the moving contact element and the actuating means are intersected by a common axis.